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"NEVER SAY DIE"

THE STORY

When a young man noted for his punctuality, breaks his appointment to attend his own funeral, it's bound to be funny.

All his friends and about 500 others were waiting for him to kick the bucket so that they could divide his huge fortune. The prize scheme to get his cash was to have him marry a young girl who would naturally become his widow and heir on his demise. After the marriage and the funeral, she could share the youth's estate with her original fiancee who had about four score debtors and friends hanging around in the offing waiting for him to divee up.

But Douglas decided to keep on living after he had married the young lady because she happened to be beautiful and kind and anyway he didn't have any reason to die except that half a dozen doctors had already pronounced him non-existent. He was supposed to have heart trouble, but it was really a bee which buzzed around inside the doctor's stethescope and afterwards stung Douglas on the chest. The doctors diagnosed his case as leaky valves and heart palpitation. The only heart trouble he had was over the girl. She was the one who was to get his money after he had rambled off this mortal sphere.

Everything was all set for the funeral when Douglas double-crossed the gang of gold-diggers by remaining in the best of health. Everyone called him a traitor including the medical men who were furious because his failure to die had cheated them out of an interesting post mortem. The young man's money-grabbing friends had already gone in debt to the extent of his fortune

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so there was nothing else to do but hire a gun-man to put him quietly out of the way.

Meanwhile the girl began to take a fancy to him, so the two decided to go on their belated honeymoon instead of waiting around to get shot in the back. So he sent his bride off to pack her luggage and to meet him at the boat. As soon as she had gone, out came the killer. The only means of escape in sight was a dilapidated hackney-cab drawn by a horse with a U-shaped back and in charge of a cabbie who was happier than he was sober.

The cabbie fell off in the ditch and the horse ran away. Douglas was about to be catapulted into eternity when the horse and cart parted company and the young man was left to steer the old hack down the steepest grade in the world. After missing trees, automobiles, street cars and scores of other obstacles, the hack goes smack through a warehouse and into the side of the ship. His bride was waiting for him on the upper deck.

The ship pulls out into the stream with the bride and groom safely aboard and the money-grabbers and killers stranded on the wharf about as happy as Robinson Crusoe and Man Friday.

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